From: Financial Times Briefing <FT@emailbriefings.ft.com>
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FINANCIAL TIMES

Monday April 28 2014

UK HOMEPAGE

Pro-Russia rebels parade hostages

Hostage crisis adds to tensions in Ukraine as Russia builds up troops on eastern border in prelude to what Ukrainian leaders say could be invasion

Pfizer renews bid interest in AstraZeneca

US drugs group has made fresh approach to UK rival and could make a public declaration of its interest in a takeover as early as this week

Oligarchs snap up London property

Wealthy Russians and Ukrainians appear to be using the UK capital's housing market to conceal their assets from international sanctions

VIDEO

RBS bonus backdown

The UK government has forced RBS to forgo plans to pay bonuses of up to 200 per cent of bankers' salaries. Lex's Oliver Ralph and FT City editor Jonathan Guthrie discuss the impact on the lender and what this means for the UK banking sector.

US HOMEPAGE

US and China lift climate change hopes

Detailed discussions about the sensitive issue of carbon-cutting goals are most promising development in 20 years of climate change negotiations

Siemens intervenes in GE Alstom bid

Proposal for the creation of two new European industrial champions – one in energy under German leadership and another in transport, which French would own

Flaw found in Internet Explorer browser

Microsoft says vulnerability used in 'limited, targeted attacks' against people and networks using Internet Explorer versions 6 to 11

EUROPE HOMEPAGE

Apple prepares for $17bn jumbo bond sale

Debts proceeds from a sale expected to be launched later this year will help fund iPhone maker's $90bn share buyback programme

European earnings forecasts still founder

Downgrades shed light not just on inaccuracy of forecasts but also on pressures that are continuing to affect companies' profitability

Further blow for $50bn Kashagan oil project

Public admission by Kazakh government that the project will not only fail to produce oil this year but may not resume production until 2016

ASIA HOMEPAGE

Philippines seeks US support in China fight

Concerns about China's maritime actions partly stem from the nine-dash line, a demarcation on Chinese maps that envelopes most of the South China Sea

US spreads military presence across Asia

The Pentagon is scouring the western Pacific for alternative airfields for US aircraft, harbours for its ships and bases for its troops in a move designed to 'complicate things for Chinese military planners' say observers

Hollywood tackles pirates with China deal

US film studios are working with internet group Tencent on a streaming service delivering new films to homes across China in an attempt to beat piracy

WORLD NEWS

Zimbabwe opposition in disarray

Moves to oust MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai could herald split within main external challengers to Robert Mugabe

Abbas calls Holocaust ‘most heinous crime’ of modern era

Gesture comes days after Israel formally declared an end to the peace talks with the Palestinians in response to Hamas-Fatah agreement

European Commission hopefuls in TV debate

Broadcast is part of an effort to give democratic legitimacy to the head of the commission, normally appointed after a deal between governments

Policy reform grinds to a halt in Congress

Republican advisers say lack of trust in President Barack Obama has helped thwart progress on any significant legislation

Two popular popes raised to sainthood

Double canonisation ceremony has been interpreted by experts as an attempt to unite both conservative and reformist groups within the Catholic Church

COMPANIES NEWS

Thwarted Immelt heads back to France

Four years after failed Areva move, GE tries for Alstom and the CEO’s motivation is more than just wounded pride

DoJ raises stakes in forex probe

Department of Justice invites several UK-based currency traders ‘on the periphery’ of the investigation to attend voluntary interviews in London

M&A spree has hallmarks of the real deal

The value of global M&A has hit $1.2tn in the year to date, but there is a fundamental shift in the way deals are being done.

Fresh troubles dog Kashagan oilfield

The news is a blow for Kazakhstan’s oil-focused economy, which was relying on the field to bolster growth as production declines at other fields

UK ad market grows 4 per cent in 2013

Print advertising is declining but television and outdoors remain resilient in the face of competition from their newer digital rivals

MARKETS

European recovery fails to lift results

European companies are becoming more optimistic about the continent's economic recovery but face headwinds in emerging markets and elsewhere

Financial crises are the cost of progress

Hedge fund manager's history of financial crises through the ages covers many examples of financial folly and suggests we seem doomed to repeat them

COMMENT

America's compulsive urge to regulate

Far from the freedom of the open road, today's US offers a spider's web of local and federal rules. Early 21st-century America is swinging back to intrusion

Confidence is a poor measure of health

If you think an improvement in mood in the eurozone signals a robust and broad-based recovery, you could not be more wrong

China's crisis is coming

The country's economy can stay unbalanced for a while – but the longer it does, the worse the eventual outcome will be

Punishing Russia is a fool's errand

Washington needs to approach Moscow with a mixture of focused resistance and calculated accommodation

Don't define voters by their skin colour

There is only one thing I have in common with a Somali refugee; the idea that there is a black 'community' in Britain is wrong and dangerous

MANAGEMENT

Thomas Rabe, Bertelsmann chief

The boss of the privately held books, music and TV group wants to make up ground lost to internet pioneers

New excuses needed for ignoring emails

The problem is that technology is steadily ruining all the old favourites

Start the day well by doing a big task

The morning is a good time for planning and tackling something important rather than merely dealing with email

Feedback: The appraisal as picnic

Readers' responses to Adam Jones's column on the softening of criticism in staff appraisals offered a variety of views

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